

## Oriental Echoes.

India is a country where the gross superstitions prevailing among the natives frequently produce the most horrible and inconceivable tragedies. Many of these are done in secret, but now and then they come to light, and give a startling reminder to the Englishmen in India that "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet." In the up country town of Hingoli, in the Deccan, is a cotton grinding mill owned by natives. One of the proprietors, a Parsee named Nowrojee, looks after the engines and machinery of the mill. Lately the machinery has not been working well, and the engine in particular has given considerable trouble. The native engineers seem to have got it into their heads that the engines were really driven by a god which took the form of steam. When it went wrong they thought the god was angry and needed propitiating by the sacrifice of a human being. One night a Hindoo laborer named Govindah was passing the mill. Some workmen, sitting in the yard smoking, called out to him to join them. The gang had just been discussing the vagaries of the engine and the necessity for offering a sacrifice to it. The whole party walked toward the boiler, and some of the men seized Govindah. Others swung open the furnace door and the unfortunate man was crammed inside, head first. They had to loose their hold of his body in order to shut the furnace door, whereupon Govindah, who was a very powerful man, managed to get out and free himself. He was frenzied with pain and fear, and had sustained ghastly injuries. The engineers did not make a second attempt to thrust him in the furnace, and he crawled away to his hut.

A Calcutta paper contains an account of the workhouse or asylum for infirm beasts that was established some thirteen years ago by a society of influential Hindus. It is near Sodepur station, about ten miles from Calcutta, and is under the control of a manager, with a staff of eighty servants, and an experienced veterinary surgeon. In the place at present there are 973 paupers—129 bulls, 307 cows, 171 calves, 72 horses, 13 water buffaloes, 69 sheep, 15 goats, 141 pigeons, 44 cocks and hens, 4 cats, 3 monkeys, and 5 dogs. This remarkable asylum is described as being most systematically and mercifully managed. The cow paupers have especially a good time of it, inasmuch as, on the occasion of the "mela," natives go from far and near to decorate and worship them.

The clergyman was nailing a refractory creeper to a piece of trellis work near his front gate, when he noticed that a small boy had stopped and was watching him with great attention.

"Well my young friend," he said, pleased to see the interest he excited, "are you looking out for a hint or two, on gardening?"

"No," said the youth, "I'm waiting to hear what a parson says when he hammers his thumb."—Pearsons.

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